

ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a method of manufacturing a fuel filler tube that significantly reduces the number of manufacturing steps. In the preferred embodiment, a tubular blank is pre-formed to an intermediate configuration approximating the form of the final fuel filler tube, and then through hydroforming the intermediate tubular preform is formed to final form. The preferred embodiment of the invention uses axial compression for controlling the axial length of the tube and its wall thickness. The method of the invention uses less material than conventional processes, and provides greater control over the parameters of the final product while eliminating many steps of the conventional process.